

HAUWCA!!!

"The Big Island"
AUGUST 10TH–12TH





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BIG BATTLES ON THE *Big Island!*

Nearly 300 hopeful Pokémon Trading Card players packed the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Waikoloa Village in Kona, Hawaii, on Friday, August 10th, 2012. Among them: a five-year-old American girl who could play the game before she could even read the cards. An entire family from Europe who played across three divisions. A past World Champion from Japan. They came from all over the world with the dream of joining the Main Event the next day by competing in the Pokémon TCG Last Chance Qualifier for one of eight coveted spots in each age division.

Those 24 players ultimately found some stiff international competition as the weekend progressed, round by round, toward the Finals on Sunday afternoon. Darkrai and Mewtwo dominated the winning decks, and the U.S. seemed poised to dominate the finale, as each division saw Americans in the final matches. Nine-

year-old Ian Robb fought hard, but in the end, Shuto Itagaki of Japan took two out of three battles to become the World Champion in the Junior Division. In the Senior Division, Canadian Chase Moloney swept Colter Decker of Portland, Oregon. And in a tension-filled Masters Division match that saw time called in the third and final battle, Igor Costa—the first World Champion from Portugal—pulled out the victory over American Harrison Leven in a decisive game-changing play at the last possible moment.

In the end, the 2012 World Championships in Hawaii were, indeed, a celebration of players from all over the globe. Cheers rang out for a host of different countries as their players advanced in the standings. Supporters waved flags from the ballroom audience seats to encourage competitors. And when the finalists and champions took the stage at the end of it all, their trophies

held high in triumph, the Pokémon Trading Card Game World Championships were truly about the whole world...



COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING



CHAMPIONS EXALTED!

With each victory, the best Pokémon TCG players in the world got closer to the title that brought them to Kona, Hawaii, for the Main Event. Each victory showed what incredible competitors they were.

On Sunday, August 12th, the 24 best Pokémon TCG players, eight in each age division, faced off against one another in the Grand Ballroom before an expectant and loyal crowd. As the day progressed, eight became four; then four became two. And two finally became one: a Pokémon TCG World Champion.

In each of the three Division brackets are the two sets of pairings (four players on the far left and four on the far right) that led to the Championship match (in the middle of each bracket).



JUNIOR Finals Brackets

**SHUTO
ITAGAKI**

World Champion

**IAN
ROBB**

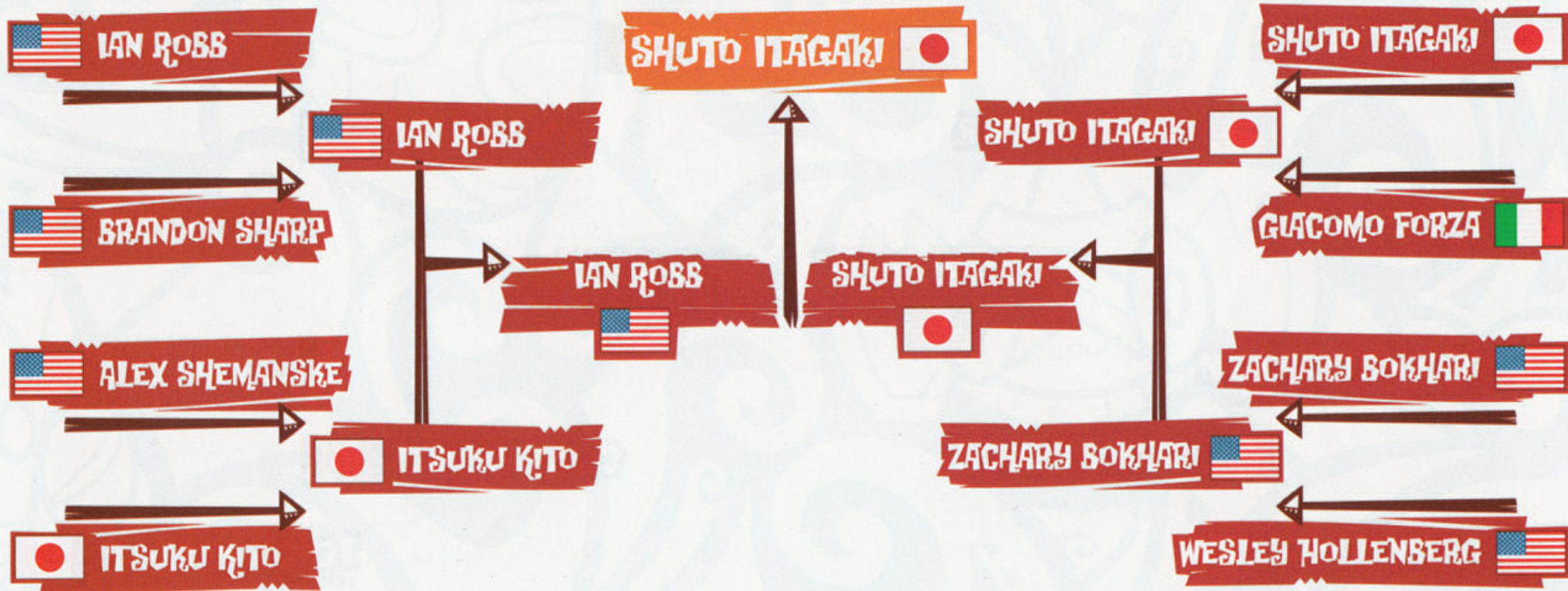
Second Place

**ITSUKU
KITO**

Third Place

**ZACHARY
BOKHARI**

Fourth Place





SENIOR Finals Brackets

**CHASE
MOLONEY**

World Champion

**COLTER
DECKER**

Second Place

**DEAN
NEZAM**

Third Place

**JACK
PITCHER**

Fourth Place

 **DARIO ANG**

 **COLTER DECKER**

 **JACK PITCHER**

 **KOICHI NISHIDA**

 **COLTER DECKER**

 **COLTER DECKER**

 **JACK PITCHER**

CHASE MOLONEY 

 **CHASE MOLONEY**

CHASE MOLONEY 

DEAN NEZAM 

DEAN NEZAM 

ALEX CROXTON 

WO PAN WONG 

CHASE MOLONEY 



MASTERS Finals Brackets

**IGOR
COSTA**

World Champion

**HARRISON
LEVEN**


Second Place

**JAY
HORNING**

Third Place

**MICHAEL
DIAZ**

Fourth Place

 **SAMI SEKKOUM**

 **MICHAEL DIAZ**

 **IGOR COSTA**

STEFAN TABACO 

 **MICHAEL DIAZ**

IGOR COSTA

HARRISON LEVEN

JAY HORNING 

JAY HORNING 

 **IGOR COSTA**

 **IGOR COSTA**

 **YUTA KOMATSUDA**

HARRISON LEVEN 

MICHAEL PRAMAWAT 

HARRISON LEVEN 

Aloha, Trainers!



Hopeful competitors check in



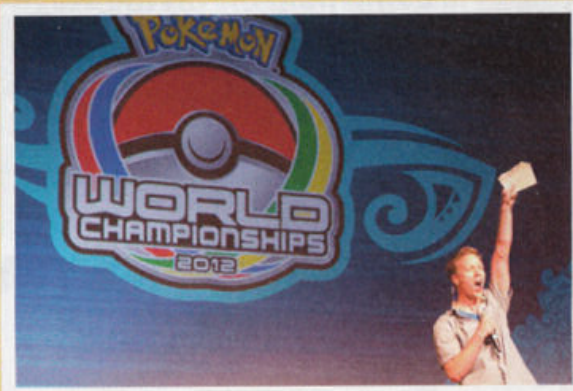
Checked in and chilled out



A mighty haul for all competitors!



Traditional entertainment
sets the scene



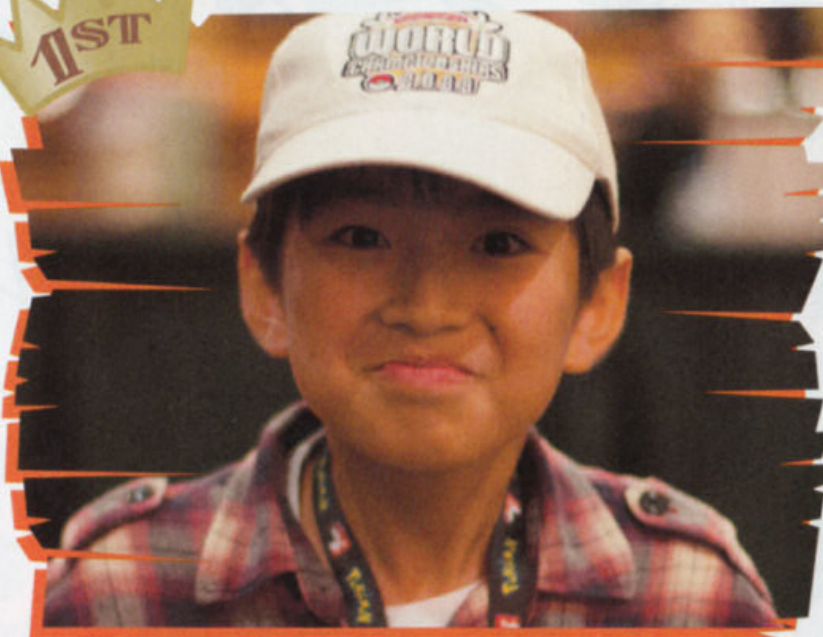
The excitement begins!



A packed house!



Am I on TV?



SHUTO ITAGAKI

JUNIOR DIVISION



World Champion

AGE: 11

COUNTRY: Japan

DECK: Terraki-Mewtwo

INTERESTING FACT: Particularly enjoyed trading at the World Championships

World Champion Shuto Itagaki constructed his deck carefully to ensure that he could easily use Terrakion's Retaliate. "I practiced against my friends and my older brother using the Worlds regulations," he says. His hope was to face off against third-place finisher Itsuku Kito, though this didn't come to be—still, while he battled against many seemingly calm players ("my opponents had great poker faces"), his six years of commitment to the game paid off on the stage for the Finals at Worlds. "Becoming the Champion," he says from personal experience, "is very different from coming in second."

TERRAKI-MEW TWO

Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 4

Terrakion NVI-73 x 3

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 4

Professor Oak's New

Theory CL-83 x 4

N DEX-96 x 3

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 4

Switch BLW-104 x 4

Dual Ball CL-78 x 3

Random Receiver DEX-99 x 3

PlusPower BLW-96 x 3

Energy Switch BLW-94 x 1



Lost Remover CL-80 x 1

Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x 1

Max Potion EPO-94 x 1

Eviolite NVI-91 x 2

Exp. Share NXD-87 x 2

Ruins of Alph UD-76 x 1

Double Colorless Energy NXD-92 x 4

Fighting Energy x 8



IAN ROBB

JUNIOR DIVISION

Second Place

AGE: 9

COUNTRY: United States

DECK: Dark Madness

INTERESTING FACT: Calls his dad his Trainer and his mom his Supporter

At nine years old, Ian Robb has spent more than a third of his life playing the Pokémon TCG. "It began with a two-player Trainer Kit for Christmas," he remembers, and it culminated with a Championship title at Nationals—which put him on the stage for the Finalist battle at this year's Worlds. "I had no easy matches," he says, and he suspects next year's battles will be equally challenging, even for top players like him. "Junk Arm will be gone, and everyone's engine will be slow," he predicts. "You'll really have to be a confident player."



DARK MADNESS

Darkrai-EX DEX-63 x 3

Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 3

Smeargle CL-21 x 2

Shaymin UL-8 x 2

N DEX-96 x 2

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 4

Professor Oak's New

Theory CL-83 x 4

Random Receiver DEX-99 x 3

Ultra Ball DEX-102 x 3

Dark Patch DEX-93 x 4

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3

Lost Remover CL-80 x 2

PlusPower BLW-96 x 2

Eviolite NVI-91 x 2

Level Ball NXD-89 x 1

Max Potion EPO-94 x 1

Dark Claw DEX-92 x 1

Super Scoop Up BLW-103 x 1

Double Colorless Energy NXD-92 x 4

Darkness Energy x 9



ITSUKU KITO

JUNIOR DIVISION



Third Place

AGE: 11

COUNTRY: Japan

DECK: Gakuso Terraki

INTERESTING FACT: Finds Smeargle most interesting because it allows the use of Supporter cards many times in a single turn

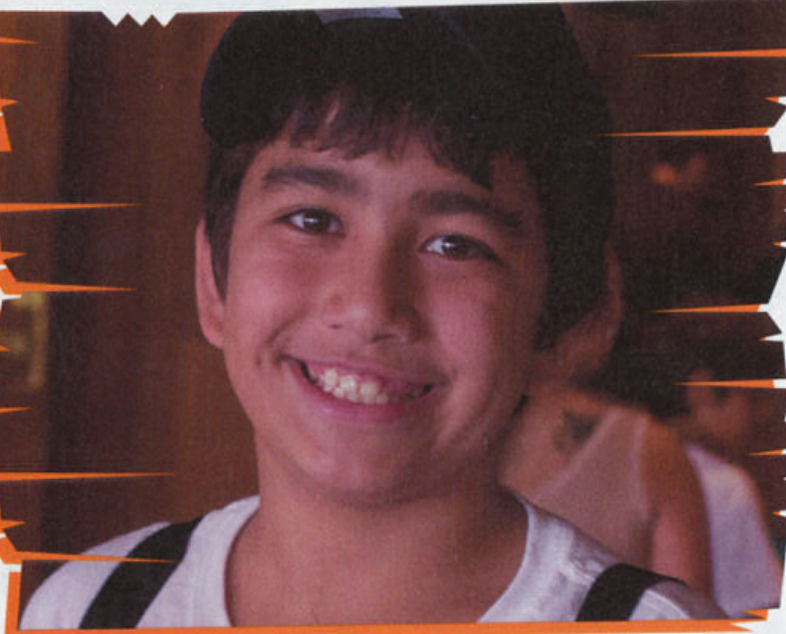
Despite his nervousness, Itsuku Kito thoroughly enjoyed the chance to play against others from all over the world. "I was very worried about making it through the preliminary rounds," he admits, "but being able to play against so many different people was a lot of fun." As the tournament advanced, Itsuku became calmer and more certain of his odds against new opponents, a feeling reinforced by the moral support he received from other players. "Those of us who came over from Japan together cheered each other on," he says. "That was fun, too."

GAKUSO TERRAKI

Smeargle CL-21 x 2
 Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 3
 Terrakion NVI-73 x 2
 Terrakion EPO-63 x 1
 Landorus NVI-74 x 1
 Shaymin UL-8 x 2
 Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 4
 Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 3
 N DEX-96 x 4
 Random Receiver DEX-99 x 1
 Dual Ball CL-78 x 3
 Junk Arm TM-87 x 4
 Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3



Switch BLW-104 x 4
 Super Scoop Up BLW-103 x 1
 Energy Switch BLW-94 x 1
 Exp. Share NXD-87 x 4
 PlusPower BLW-96 x 2
 Eviolite NVI-91 x 1
 Skyarow Bridge NXD-91 x 1
 Double Colorless Energy NXD-92 x 4
 Fighting Energy x 9



ZACHARY BOKHARI

JUNIOR DIVISION



Fourth Place

AGE: 10

COUNTRY: United States

DECK: CMT

INTERESTING FACT: Has attended three Pokémon World Championships!

A bit of chocolate is ten-year-old Zachary Bokhari's good-luck charm before heading into a TCG battle. "Then I just focus on no misplays and a good, clean game." All of that came together for his fourth place finish at the 2012 World Championships, where his Terrakion in particular served him well. "I think it'll be around a long time because Terrakion-EX is out now," he says. And as the youngest of three siblings who all play Pokémon—his older brother and sister play in Senior and Masters—it's also likely that Zachary will be around for many more World Championships to come!

CMT

Celebi TM-92 x 3

Smeargle CL-21 x 2

Terrakion NVI-73 x 2

Tornadus-EX DEX-90 x 1

Shaymin UL-8 x 1

Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 3

N DEX-96 x 1

Professor Oak's New

Theory CL-83 x 4

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 3 Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Random Receiver DEX-99 x 3 Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3

Dual Ball CL-78 x 4

Eviolite NVI-91 x 2

Revive BLW-102 x 1

Energy Search BLW-93 x 1



Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x 1

PlusPower BLW-96 x 2

Skyarrow Bridge NXD-91 x 2

Switch BLW-104 x 3

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

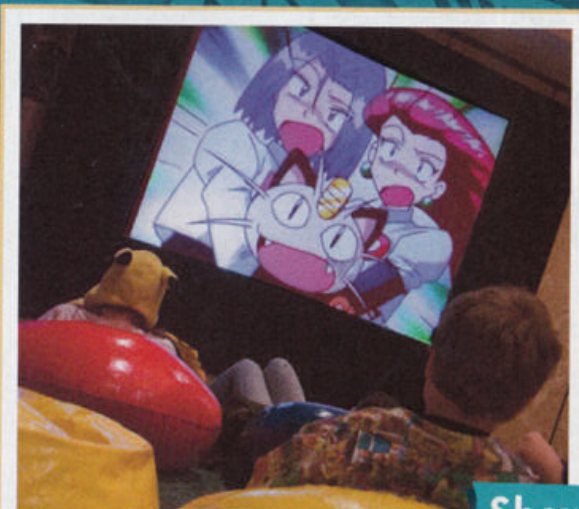
Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3

Potion BLW-100 x 1

Double Colorless Energy NXD-92 x 4

Grass Energy x 6

Fighting Energy x 3



Showtime!



Pikachu, "Minun,"
and "Plusle"



A full-grown Trainer
at five years old





At the eye of the storm



Every card can make the difference

Hats off to Pikachu!



For the Champs, the rewards!



CHASE MOLONEY

SENIOR DIVISION



World Champion

AGE: 15

COUNTRY: Canada

DECK: Eeltwo

INTERESTING FACT: Thinks the Trainer card N has real potential in future decks

Chase Moloney had never seen anything like it back in his hometown in Canada: "I walked into the open gaming room at Worlds, and there were former World Champions playing. It was very intimidating." But Chase had come prepared to face those Champs—he'd looked over the metagame following the U.S. Nationals, and he had modified the deck that came in second at that event. His modifications made for some memorable battles, including a semi-finals game in which he faced a Darkrai-Mewtwo deck and promptly Knocked Out two Darkrai in a row. "That was when I knew," the latest World Champion says, "that I was going to take it all."

EELTWO

Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 3

Raikou-EX DEX-380 x 1

Zekrom NXD-50 x 1

Eelektrik NVI-40 x 3

Tynamo DEX-45 x 4

Smeargle CL-21 x 2

Skyarrow Bridge NXD-91 x 1

N DEX-96 x 4

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 4

Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 2

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Max Potion EPO-94 x 3

Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3

Switch BLW-104 x 3



Dual Ball CL-78 x 3

Level Ball NXD-89 x 2

PlusPower NXD-89 x 2

Super Rod NVI-95 x 1

Random Receiver DEX-99 x 1

Ultra Ball DEX-102 x 1

Double Colorless

Energy NXD-92 x 4

Lightning Energy x 8



COLTER DECKER

SENIOR DIVISION



Second Place

AGE: 11

COUNTRY: United States

DECK: Night Spear

INTERESTING FACT: If he could get Darkrai-EX out on his first turn, he felt confident of winning

It's been a rocket ride for Colter Decker in the 2-1/2 years since he began playing the Pokémon TCG: at his first Worlds in 2011, he made the top 16 in the Junior Division, and this year, he made it into the spotlight on the stage to take second place. "In the very first round," he says, "I was paired with last year's second-place winner. I was very nervous." Yet his daily practice with family and friends paid off—in one memorable moment, he used Professor Juniper to draw three Dark Patch cards and a Max Potion. "That," he says with certainty, "helped me win."

NIGHT SPEAR

Darkrai-EX DEX-63 x 4

Smeargle CL-21 x 2

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 4

Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 3

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Dark Patch DEX-93 x 4

Random Receiver DEX-99 x 4

Ultra Ball DEX-102 x 4

Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3

PlusPower BLW-96 x 3

Eviolite NVI-91 x 3

Switch BLW-104 x 3

Max Potion EPO-94 x 2

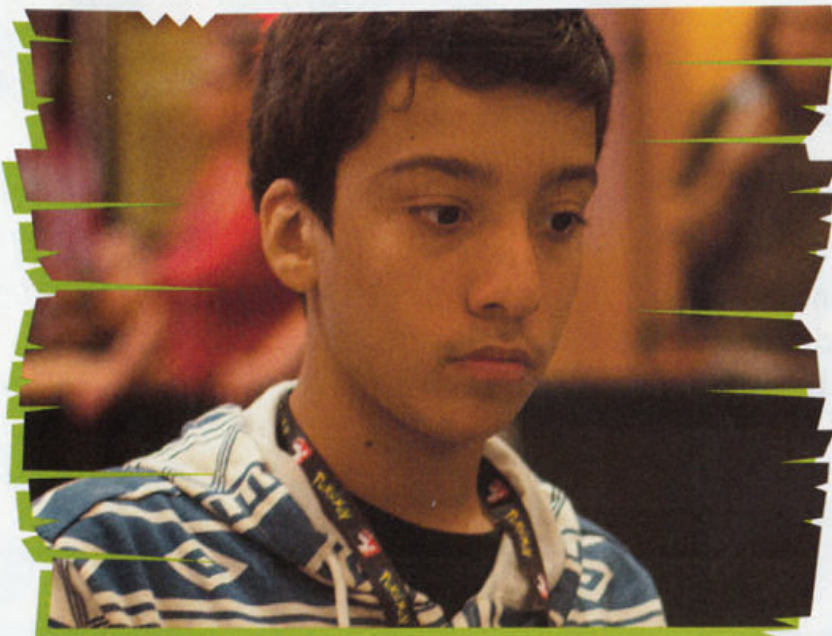


Enhanced Hammer DEX-94 x 2

Skyarrow Bridge NXD-91 x 2

Darkness Energy CL-86 x 4

Darkness Energy x 9



DEAN NEZAM

SENIOR DIVISION



Third Place

AGE: 15

COUNTRY: United States

DECK: Trouble Times Two

INTERESTING FACT: Thinks of his Team WUVS as his Pokémon family

Dean Nezam hoped that every opponent he faced in the World Championships was nervous “because *I was always nervous.*” But after six years of play, Dean still felt confident as he battled his way to the top four. “I drew a turn-one Night Spear in game three of the top 8,” he says, reflecting on his success at the tournament and what comes next. “I think next year is going to be even harder—I’ll be in Masters next time.” As nervous as he may be to face new opponents in a new division in Vancouver, Dean can rest assured that many of *them* will be nervous to face a player of his caliber.

TROUBLE TIMES TWO

Smeargle CL-21 x 3

Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 3

Darkrai-EX DEX-63 x 3

Shaymin UL-8 x 2

N DEX-96 x 4

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 3

Professor Oak’s New

Theory CL-83 x 2

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3

Dark Patch DEX-93 x 4

Eviolite NVI-91 x 3

Random Receiver DEX-99 x 2



Switch BLW-104 x 3

Ultra Ball DEX-102 x 2

PlusPower BLW-96 x 2

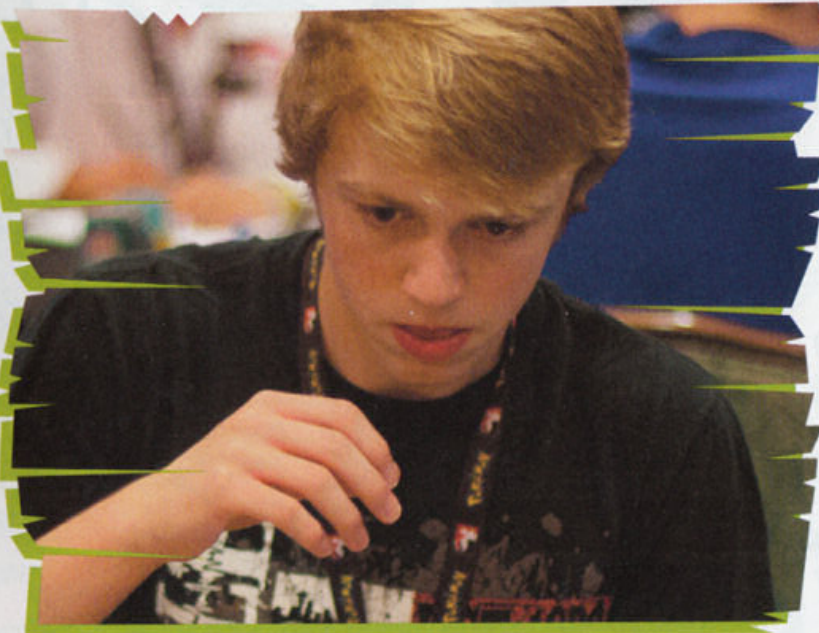
Dual Ball CL-78 x 2

Max Potion EPO-94 x 1

Skyarrow Bridge NXD-91 x 1

Double Colorless Energy NXD-92 x 4

Darkness Energy x 9



JACK PITCHER

SENIOR DIVISION



Fourth Place

AGE: 15

COUNTRY: Canada

DECK: Mountain Eater

INTERESTING FACT: Plays online every single day, even while on vacation

Jack Pitcher says he began to play the Pokémon TCG over four years ago because he “saw a Worlds booklet like this one.” This year, Jack will see himself in a Worlds booklet after his impressive wins in Hawaii. “I was pretty confident in my deck choice and my strategy,” he says. “I tried to come back from behind and stabilize my setup, and I tried to constantly heal Tornadus-EX with Max Potion.” But it was Larvitar’s Mountain Eater attack that Jack will always remember: “It won me my top 8 match.” And when he moves on to the Masters Division next year, he’ll be battling to appear in the Worlds booklet again!

MOUNTAIN EATER

Tynamo NVI-38 x 2

Tynamo DEX-45 x 2

Eelektrik NVI-40 x 3

Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 2

Tornadus-EX DEX-90 x 2

Raikou-EX DEX-38 x 1

Zekrom NXD-50 x 1

Smeargle CL-21 x 1

Shaymin UL-8 x 1

Larvitar UL-50 x 1

Random Receiver DEX-99 x 4

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3

Level Ball NXD-89 x 2

Dual Ball CL-78 x 1

Switch BLW-104 x 2



Max Potion EPO-94 x 2

Super Rod NVI-95 x 2

Ultra Ball DEX-102 x 1

Eviolite NVI-91 x 1

Skyarrow Bridge NXD-91 x 2

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 3

N DEX-96 x 3

Professor Oak’s New Theory CL-83 x 1

Double Colorless Energy NXD-92 x 4

Lightning Energy x 8

Game face on!



A plethora of plush



Who wouldn't look good in this?



Mr. Ishihara signing autographs for starstruck fans





Compete, create,
or both!

Battle is joined!



A cornucopia of costumes!



Tepig? What Tepig?





IGOR COSTA

MASTERS DIVISION



World Champion

AGE: 16

COUNTRY: Portugal

DECK: Pesadelo Prism

INTERESTING FACT: Expects Pokémon Catcher to be in every winning deck next year

Igor Costa has won four Nationals in Portugal. Four. Yet he continues to graciously credit almost everyone else for helping him win the World Championships. "A friend of mine helped me build my deck," he says, "and some of the best players in the world helped me at Worlds, and I get to play every week with friends back home." But when his Finals match against Harrison Leven went all the way to time-called on their third game, it was Igor and Igor alone who fought to be the first player from Portugal to win the title of World Champion. "It was a very exciting weekend for me," he says modestly.

PESADELO PRISM

Darkrai-EX DEX-63 x 3
 Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 3
 Terrakion NVI-73 x 2
 Shaymin UL-8 x 2
 Smeargle UD-8 x 2
 Professor Oak's New Theory HS-101 x 4
 N DEX-96 x 2
 Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 3
 Junk Arm TM-87 x 4
 Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3
 Random Receiver DEX-99 x 2
 Dark Patch DEX-93 x 4
 Eviolite NVI-91 x 3
 PlusPower BLW-96 x 2
 Switch BLW-104 x 2



Ultra Ball DEX-102 x 2
 Dual Ball UL-72 x 1
 Super Scoop Up BLW-103 x 2
 Prism Energy NXD-93 x 2
 Double Colorless
 Energy NXD-92 x 3
 Darkness Energy x 7
 Fighting Energy x 2



HARRISON LEVEN

MASTERS DIVISION 

Second Place

AGE: 18

COUNTRY: United States

DECK: Darkrai/Mewtwo

INTERESTING FACT: Expected to go no more than 4-3, given that it was his first Worlds!

As he went from the tropical weather of Florida—where he will soon start college—to the tropics of Hawaii, Harrison Leven still wasn't sure what deck he would play in the World Championships. "A lot of my opponents thought I was playing Mew-Accelgor because of how well I did with it at Nationals." But the night before the event, he opted for a Darkrai-Mewtwo variant that served him well, taking him all the way to second place. "I'll have a much easier time affording college because of this," he says. "I figured I was going to be mediocre." Instead, his exciting third battle in the Finals, in which the card he needed to win his Prize cards was one of his Prize cards, was anything but mediocre: it was a Championship battle!

DARKRAI/MEWTWO

Darkrai-EX DEX-63 x 3

Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 3

Shaymin UL-8 x 2

Smeargle CL-21 x 2

Lost Remover CL-80 x 1

Max Potion EPO-94 x 1

Potion BLW-100 x 2

PlusPower BLW-96 x 2

Switch BLW-104 x 2

Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3

Ultra Ball DEX-102 x 3

Eviolite NVI-91 x 3

Dark Patch DEX-93 x 4

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4



Random Receiver DEX-99 x 2

Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 2

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 4

N DEX-96 x 4

Double Colorless Energy NXD-92 x 4

Darkness Energy x 9



JAY HORNUNG

MASTERS DIVISION



Third Place

AGE: 23

COUNTRY: United States

DECK: Spear Bolt

INTERESTING FACT: Promised in a previous Worlds booklet that he would run a marathon...and now has!

Jay Hornung says he played a deck at Worlds that was very similar to his Nationals list. "My brother and I tested it a lot," he notes, "but the deck was actually built by Michael and Frank Diaz." That would be the same Michael Diaz who came in fourth in the Masters Division at Worlds, right behind Jay. The competition like Michael and other top players from all over the world is "unbelievably difficult," he says, but he was ready. "I go into these events as relaxed as possible. But that huge jump from top 8 to top 4—it was just an amazing feeling to do it again."

SPEAR BOLT

Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 3

Darkrai-EX DEX-63 x 3

Smeargle CL-21 x 3

Shaymin UL-8 x 2

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 4

N DEX-96 x 4

Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 1

Random Receiver DEX-99 x 3

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Dark Patch DEX-93 x 4

Ultra Ball DEX-102 x 4

Eviolite NVI-91 x 3

Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3



PlusPower BLW-96 x 2

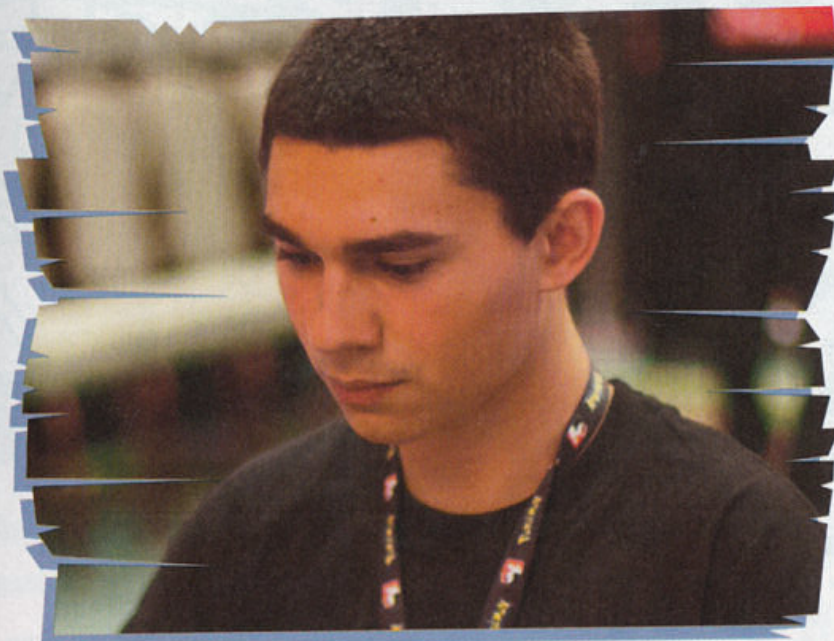
Switch BLW-104 x 2

Skyarrow Bridge NXD-917 x 1

Double Colorless

Energy NXD-92 x 4

Darkness Energy x 10



MICHAEL DIAZ

MASTERS DIVISION



Fourth Place

AGE: 16

COUNTRY: United States

DECK: X-Bolt

INTERESTING FACT: Made it to the final four completely unexpectedly—by competing in the Last Chance Qualifier!

In his decisive battle against Sami Sekkoum, Michael Diaz had his most memorable moment of Worlds: using N to draw 5 cards, one of which was Max Potion to seal the game. “It felt so great because Sami is one of the best, and it secured my top 4 slot.” From playtesting online with friends from all over the world to working his way through the Last Chance Qualifier to making top 4, Michael did it all—and he did it calmly and modestly. “I never expect to do this well again,” he says. He’ll have the chance in Vancouver 2013, where he will be facing both new and familiar opponents. “I will most remember the friendships that came out of my time in Hawaii,” he says. And that—plus winning, of course—is what Worlds is all about.

X-BOLT

Shaymin UL-8 x 2

Smeargle CL-21 x 3

Mewtwo-EX NXD-54 x 3

Darkrai-EX DEX-63 x 3

N DEX-96 x 4

Professor Juniper DEX-98 x 3

Professor Oak’s New Theory CL-83 x 2

Random Receiver DEX-99 x 2

Dark Patch DEX-93 x 4

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Eviolite NVI-91 x 3

Pokémon Catcher EPO-95 x 3

Dual Ball CL-78 x 2

Ultra Ball DEX-102 x 2



PlusPower BLW-96 x 2

Switch BLW-104 x 3

Max Potion EPO-94 x 1

Skyarrow Bridge NXD-91 x 1

Double Colorless

Energy NXD-92 x 4

Darkness Energy x 9



Getting down to the art of the matter

Get ready...get set...inflate!

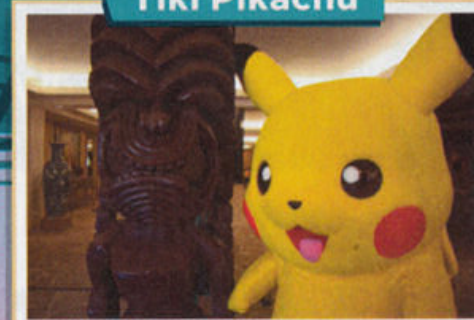


Pikachu watches over the Grand Ballroom

Team spirit!



Tiki Pikachu



The winners take center stage



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POKÉMON TCG CREDITS

ORIGINAL JAPANESE GAME

PRODUCER: Tsunekazu Ishihara

ORIGINAL GAME DESIGN: Tsunekazu Ishihara,
Kouichi Ooyama & Takumi Akabane

GAME DEVELOPMENT: Creatures Inc.

ART DIRECTION: Creatures Inc.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Milky Isobe

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THE POKÉMON COMPANY INTERNATIONAL

PRODUCER: Kenji Okubo

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION: Richard Simpson

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT: Yasuhiro Usui

PROJECT COORDINATION: Traci Thomson

PRODUCTION COORDINATION: Russ Foster & Traci Thomson

COPYWRITING AND EDITING: Michael G. Ryan

ART DIRECTION: Eric Medalle

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Jeremy Perkins

CARD TYPESETTING: Ginny Baldwin

PACKAGING ILLUSTRATION: Hironobu Yoshida

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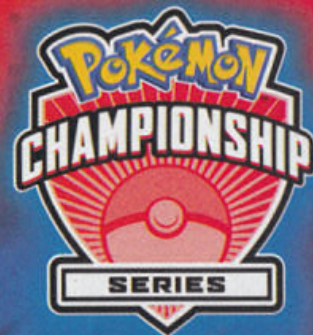
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